

apply to her program and a \$15,000 personal award.

Ms. Flynn was chosen from nearly 700 people nominated this year. Since 1992, the program has given 133 awards in 45 states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. Award winners are nominated by civic leaders, health professionals, government representatives and others inspired by their efforts to provide essential health services to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Flynn is motivated by the disparity and inconsistencies that she observes in her community. She believes that a commitment to help those who are regarded as less fortunate is a small price to pay. Her commitment in turn inspires others to continue to strive for a better future. Ms. Flynn is more than worthy of our recognition today.

#### THE CARIBBEAN MULTI-NATIONAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and success of the Caribbean Multi-National Business Conference, organized by the New York Carib News, which will celebrate its tenth anniversary this year in the U.S. Virgin Islands between November 10 and 13. Thanks to the hard work and dedicated effort of the organizers of this event, a real dialogue between U.S. and Caribbean businesses has emerged that promises to generate plenty of economic benefit for both the U.S. and the island nations of the Caribbean.

Karl and Faye Rodney, the publishers of the New York Carib News have brought together hundreds of elected officials, civic leaders, entrepreneurs, and business executives from the U.S. and the Caribbean to explore the possibilities and opportunities for economic growth and expansion in the Caribbean. This year's conference will be held in St. Thomas and promises to be an extraordinary success.

Personally, I have found the conference extremely influential in building and supporting political and economic relationships between this country and the nations of the Caribbean. I have also had the honor of participating in these successful conferences and know that they are extremely enlightening and educational endeavors that nurture a growing and important global sector in the world.

This conference has repeatedly addressed important issues of concern to our mutual economic interests. It has concentrated on the challenges and problems of foreign investment, market access, and private sector support. The attendees at the conference come with bright ideas and innovative solutions to these problems and to addressing our common concerns.

I encourage my colleagues and businesses throughout the country to consider attending this year's conference. I submit for the RECORD a Carib News article providing an assessment of this year's planning and the opportunities available for corporations, government leader, and citizens, written by Tony Best, who always participates and provides wise guidance and counsel.

SET FOR ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

A decade after it was launched to build bridges between Caribbean and the U.S.

businesses the Caribbean Multi-National Business Conference is moving towards an important milestone in its evolution.

It is the 10th anniversary of an innovation in economic and social development partnerships, spurred by links between the large, medium-sized and small businesses in an area that stretches from New York, Washington DC, Miami, Colorado, Chicago, Ohio, Texas, New Jersey, and other parts of the U.S. to such nations and territories as Jamaica, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Grenada, St. Marteen, the Bahamas, and St. Kitts-Nevis.

The annual Caribbean Multi-National conference which brought together about 4,000 Caribbean and U.S. business and Government leaders since 1995 to discuss everything from investment, Hemispheric trade and bilateral economic and social partnerships to U.S.-Caribbean relations and health and education challenges is scheduled to be held at Caribbean regional integration, in the U.S. and the Caribbean, especially the members of CARICOM is being held this year in St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands between November 10-13.

The conference has become a highly successful annual event for those interested in creating profitable business partnerships in the Caribbean and for government representatives whose goal is to improve the quality of people's lives, said Pamela Richards, U.S. Virgin Island's Commissioner of Tourism, who is also Chairman of the Board of the Caribbean Tourism Organization.

We have seen the positive results of these meetings, ever since the 1998 meeting in St. Croix. We are delighted that we are being given another opportunity to serve as hosts.

With issues that range from foreign investment, access to markets, the essential role of the private sector in economic expansion and job creation to the march forward in information communications technology on the table for consideration, this year's meeting in St. Thomas, Dr. Karl Rodney, Publisher of the New York Carib News and the driving force behind the conference's 10-year record of success, said that they expect the sessions in St. Thomas to attract the largest gatherings of participants.

We have already seen an exceptionally high level of interest, he explained. One reason is the appeal of St. Thomas. Another is the track record of providing participants with a unique chance to explore commercial deals and to share ideas about new business ventures in several fields, be it retailing, manufacturing, tourism, and other services and import-export.

The presence of many members of the U.S. Congress, senior Caribbean government ministers and their advisers would once again allow them to have a meaningful exchange of ideas about moving U.S. Caribbean relations forward. U.S. Congressional delegate from the U.S. Virgin Islands, Representative Dr. Donna Christian Christensen, agreed. We in Congress and outside of it, know the value of the conference both in terms of the business ventures that evolve out of the private meetings and the public sessions and the discussions which take place during the Dialogue between elected representatives and other Government officials from the U.S. and the Caribbean, said Congresswoman who has attended almost all the conference. That's why we in the U.S. Virgin Islands consider it an honor to welcome the participants from across the U.S. and the Caribbean.

HONORING PAUL J. WILMES

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Paul J. Wilmes of Nodaway County, Missouri. Paul will soon retire from a 28 year career of distinguished service to the rural residents and communities of 22 counties in northwest Missouri. Although we wish that Paul could stay on at USDA, he has certainly given back to his community, his state, and his Nation, and well deserved retirement awaits him, though given Paul's reputation for being an active citizen in his community, I doubt this is the last we will hear from Paul Wilmes.

Paul was born on April 22nd, 1953 to Francis and Clara Wilmes of Nodaway County; a county I have been fortunate enough to represent since 1992 at the state and now federal level. Paul grew up in a devout Catholic farm home, and attended St. Gregory's Catholic elementary school, followed by Maryville High School where he was active with football and wrestling. Upon his graduation from Maryville High School, Paul enrolled in Northwest Missouri State University, where he was a member of the Phi Sigma Epsilon Fraternity. He graduated from Northwest with a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science.

On July 10, 1976 he married Robin Lamb. Today, Paul and Robin have two children, Meredith and Kyle, and they remain active in their local community in Nodaway County. Paul has served as a Trustee for the endowment for St. Gregory's School, Advisor to the Area Vocation Technical School, Committee Advisor for the Parents as Teacher Program, a Bantam League football coach, as well as many other church committees and the Finance Board at St. Gregory Barbarigo.

Paul began his career with USDA on April 18, 1977 working for the Farmers Home Administration. He was promoted to the position of County Supervisor in Nodaway County, and later advanced to the position of District Farm Loan Specialist within the Farmers Home Administration. Paul was selected as the District Director of that agency, and on April 30, 1995, Paul began his tenure supervising 22 rural counties in Northwest Missouri. Over the years, the agency has changed its name and refocused its mission, but Paul has remained constant as the leader and director of what is now known as Area 1 of USDA Rural Development.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Paul J. Wilmes, a remarkable citizen who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service. While rural Missouri will miss his leadership, experience, and knowledge, I will still have the great honor of representing Paul in the United States Congress.

A TRIBUTE TO JOANN LUM

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor JoAnn Lum. Ms. Lum, the daughter of Chinese immigrants, recently won the Nation's